

A JAPANESE STATESMAN.

MR. TORU HOSHI, THE MINISTER AT WASHINGTON.

THE "TOM REED" OF HIS NATIVE COUNTRY AND AN AUTHORITY ON INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Washington, Sept. 11.—In a pleasant part of the northwestern section of Washington, at No. 1,310 N-st., stands the Japanese Legation.

Though it is owned by the Japanese Government and has been occupied for diplomatic purposes for ten years or more, there is little that is Oriental in its appearance. Nothing in the exterior denotes the purpose of the building except a golden chrysanthemum, the National emblem of Japan, over the main doorway. Scarcely anything in the interior indicates Japanese ownership except the richness of the raw silk hangings and some priceless lacquer-work and porcelain. It is a pleasant three-story-and-basement brick edifice, well shaded, with grass lawns and gardens at the side and in the rear. Connected with the residence is an annex, stretching back to the next street, and affording accommodation for the attachés and a separate entrance for business purposes.

The residence of the Minister and his family can be made separate from the Legation offices whenever that is desired. On ceremonial occasions the portières of diplomatic etiquette and precedence may be let down, but those occasions are few. At all other times those visiting the Legation on official or private business are received with informal cordiality, and find the attachés as accessible and jolly as a lot of college undergraduates. The chances are that if it is a pleasant day they will run across them fencing or engaged in other athletic sports under the shade trees of the lawn. They are all youthful in appearance, though some of them have had experiences which might have brought gray hairs to persons of less happily constituted temperaments.

The present Japanese Minister, Mr. Toru Hoshi, is one of the most hospitable of the diplomats in Washington. He is not a wealthy man, as was Mr. Tateno, but he dispenses a graceful hospitality outside of the purely diplomatic functions in a manner which adds to its charms. In this he is assisted by his wife, who speaks English, and who is an exemplification of the culture which has been a noticeable feature of the women of the higher classes in Japan, almost from time immemorial. But Mme. Toru Hoshi is an ardent patriot. Her native country has charms for her which no amount of gaiety in foreign mountain or seaside resorts can overcome. Her holidays, therefore, are passed in Japan, while the Minister spends his summers at Berkeley Springs. Mme. Hoshi went home early in May, taking with her her bright young son, who had been the light of the domestic life of the Legation during his brief stay here. The name of this youngster is Hiharu Hoshi. He is an only child, between five and six years of age, but is not especially spoiled because of that distinction. He is rapidly becoming an adept in American games, as well as in the tongue of the country of his temporary

representatives of the Imperial Diet during the first sessions of Japan's national legislature. The stormy, turbulent scenes that marked the assembling of that body threatened to make parliamentary government in Japan a failure. But the firm hand with which Mr. Hoshi wielded the gavel, his knowledge of parliamentary law and the justice of his rulings brought order out of chaos. He was chairman of the Budget Committee which provided the ways and means for carrying on the war with China, and he presided over and largely conducted the deliberations of the Committee on Codification of the Laws of Japan, which resulted in making an opening for Japan to propose the important treaties with Western Powers which have since been put into effect.

But while Mr. Hoshi may resemble Speaker Reed in his ability as a parliamentary leader, he has none of his sense of humor or sarcastic wit. He takes life altogether seriously. He began his political career by so savagely attacking abuses of government in a series of addresses he de-

Anglican Bishops held their annual meeting at Ely, and went together to have their photographs taken. All except Magee were fine, good-looking men. Dr. Woodward, the then Bishop of Ely, and Dr. Pelham, of Norwich, eminently so. The photographer, anxious to succeed with such distinguished "sitters," took immense pains to group their lordships satisfactorily. At last, after several unsuccessful attempts to get them all focussed as he desired, he exclaimed: "It is no good, my lords, I must have you all on an equal plane." "But not all equally plain, I hope," replied "Peterborough," with a twinkle in his eye, "for that might be rather hard on the others!"

THEY ARE NOT ENGLISH PRINCES.

THE LITTLE SONS OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK, GREAT-GRAND-SONS OF THE QUEEN, ARE PLAIN COMMONERS.

It will doubtless be news to most people that the infant sons of the Duke and Duchess of York are not, strictly speaking, princes of the blood. True, they, like all the Queen's sons and

A GAMBLER'S WORK.

PECULIAR ORIGIN OF THE NEWLY PROCLAIMED FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE.

There is so much in the nature of an act of defiance in the proclamation by the Czar of Russia's alliance with France within so very few days after the departure of Emperor William from St. Petersburg that it is difficult to find fault with Parisians for interpreting the words, as well as the attitude, of the Muscovite ruler to mean that he is prepared to assist his allies in the attainment of the object that is most dear to every Gallic heart, namely, the recovery of Alsace and Lorraine. The world has been aware for some time that there has been an understanding between France and Russia, a species of military convention. But it was believed to stop short of a definite alliance, and to partake of a purely defensive character, the one country undertaking to assist the other in the event of attack. But the full-fledged alliance signed at St. Petersburg in the course of the visit of President Faure, and referred to by the latter, as well as by the Czar, in their officially published speeches, is something more than this, and may well be construed as not only defensive but also offensive in its character.

Under the circumstances it may be of timely interest to call attention to several little-known and yet dramatic incidents that have served to bring about this strange brotherhood between the most despotic of monarchies and the most revolutionary of republics, between the most reactionary and the most progressive elements of the Old World, an alliance as extraordinary as that between Oliver Cromwell, the Chief Magistrate of the British Republic, who had beheaded King Charles, and King Louis XIV of France, personification of the doctrine of divine right, who so arrogantly declared "Tôtat est moi"—an alliance that was denounced by the greatest Spanish statesmen of the day as "un ejemplo tan escandaloso contra las monarquías" (a most disgraceful example, calculated to inflict terrible injury to the monarchical system).

OF RECENT ORIGIN.

The Franco-Russian brotherhood is but of recent origin. In 1824, when a French squadron appeared for the first time before Cronstadt, the visitors were so much in doubt as to what would be the nature of their reception that the admiral sent on shore to find out if any salutes that he might give would be returned by the Russian ships and batteries. Until as recently as 1855, the regular liturgical prayers recited by the clergy on every Sunday and feast day in all the churches and chapels of the Czar's Empire called down divine wrath and vengeance upon the French nation for the ruin and devastation which its armies had wrought at the time of the terrible invasion of 1812. The first Emperor Nicholas loathed Paris as the hotbed of everything that was anti-monarchical, revolutionary, subversive of order, and after declining to be represented by any one but a mere chargé d'affaires at the Court of King Louis Philippe went on after the fall of the latter to refuse either to receive Napoleon III in St. Petersburg or to accord him the title of "brother," which is the customary form of address between reigning sovereigns. This slight placed by Russia upon France contributed to bring about the Crimean War, which terminated in a manner humiliating in the extreme to Russia, shiploads of Muscovite trophies in the shape of guns, flags, church bells, etc., being carried off by the French victors to Paris after the fall of the greatest of all the Czar's strongholds, namely, Sebastopol.

In 1867, when Alexander II and his sons visited Paris at the time of the Exhibition, he offended both the Imperial Court and the people by declining to permit the Czarina to accompany him, and by paying his respects to the celebrated actress who was playing the part of the Grand-duchess de Gerolstein before offering his devoirs to Empress Eugénie. And when, a few days afterward, he was shot at while driving in the Bois de Boulogne with Napoleon III, the Czar's wife, afterward Alexander III, turning to his parent, exclaimed without the slightest regard for the French monarch, "Father, come away from here!" (allons nous en d'ici), the obvious inference being that the autocrat had exposed himself to attacks of that sort in coming to such a place as France. Finally, in 1870, the German victories of Sedan and Gravelotte, the fall of the French fortresses of Metz and Strasburg, as well as the capitulation of Paris, were nowhere celebrated with more enthusiasm than at the Court of St. Petersburg, where Alexander II toasted his German relatives in the German language.

EXPOSED BY GAMBETTA.

No one was better aware of this nor took these manifestations of Muscovite hostility more to heart than Gambetta, who as long as he lived never ceased to oppose the idea of any alliance between France and Russia, declaring that it would not only be illogical, and even monstrous, if completed, but that, moreover, all the advantages would remain in the hands of Russia, while France was bound to be the sufferer. His ideas, which he time and again discussed at length in conversation during the years 1878, '79, '80 and '81, were shared by his intimate friend and successor, M. Spuller, who held office after his death as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and who remains on record as the only Cabinet officer in charge of that particular department who allowed his feelings to get to such an extent the better of him as to send a challenge to fight a duel to one of the foreign Ambassadors accredited to his



MR. TORU HOSHI.
(Japanese Minister to the United States.)

livered all over Japan in advocacy of popular rights and the establishment of representative institutions that he was twice imprisoned and once temporarily banished from the capital. After the adoption of the Constitution of 1889, which accorded most of the popular rights for which he had contended, he was pardoned, as "an act of grace," and went abroad to study representative institutions in England and other European countries. He had previously become a barrister of the Middle Temple in London. His "eating his terms" in that institution of learning was not merely a formality. He became an intense student of international law, and has never relaxed his studies in that direction. His library contains nearly every known work on the subject in the English language, for he speaks but little French, and he is constantly adding to it. Just as the famous Japanese surgeons, Kitasato, Aoyama and Okata, who discovered the germs of the bubonic plague, are widely known in the medical world, Mr. Hoshi bids fair to become celebrated as a jurist.

English is the language best spoken by all the members of the Legation outside of their own tongue. Most of them were educated in Europe, but Mr. Keishero Matsui, the Secretary of Legation, is the first product of the Imperial University of Tokio, Japan, and owes his varied accomplishments entirely to that recently established institution. He possesses somewhat of the gravity of demeanor of the Minister, but lightened by a keen capacity for enjoyment and considerable humor. He served in a diplomatic capacity in Corea during the eventful days of the Chino-Japanese war, but left before the final tragedy which resulted in the assassination and cremation of the Queen. In the recent negotiations of the Japanese treaty with the United States, Mr. Matsui played an important part, for which he has been suitably rewarded.

NOT ALL SO PLAIN.

From The Gentlewoman.

People are never tired of telling stories about Bishop Magee. Here is one of them—not too much of a "chestnut," I hope: Shortly before he was made Archbishop of York the five East



MASTER HIHARU HOSHI.
(Son of the Japanese Minister.)

residence, and manifests an intelligence which promises to make him a worthy son of his father.

The manner in which the Japanese Minister's name—"Toru Hoshi"—appears on the official Register of the State Department indicates a rather remarkable concession to Western usages. The custom in Japan for centuries has been to place the family name first, the given name afterward. In his official communications to his Government, the Japanese Minister is Mr. "Hosh Toru." It was in that way his appointment was first announced. Mr. Hoshi has preferred to follow the customary method of writing the name which prevails in Eastern countries, and puts his given name "Toru" before the family name "Hoshi." Several of the Korean Legation have lately followed a like course.

Toru Hoshi is the "Tom Reed" of Japan. He presided as Speaker over the House of Repre-

their male issue, have inherited through the Prince Consort the peculiar German title of "Herzog in Sachsen"—that is to say, "Duke in Saxony." But according to English statutes, etiquette and precedence the sons of the Duke of York cannot be considered as royal children at all. Unless their great-grandmother, the Queen, should choose to confer upon them some peerage in their own right they will remain, legally speaking, commoners, and as such within the jurisdiction of the ordinary tribunals—that is to say, not even entitled to the ordinary immunities and legal prerogatives of a British Peer—until Her Majesty's death places them one step nearer in the line of succession to the throne. For the present the little Yorks rank officially merely as the sons of an ordinary English duke, and if they are accorded the title of "prince" it is merely by courtesy, just in the same way that the title of marquis is conceded to John Campbell, their granduncle, who is known as the Marquis of Lorne, and is married to Princess Louise, fourth daughter of the Queen.

The reason for this is a wise provision, which is to be found in no other European country save Russia, for the purpose of preventing the growth of pauper royalty. In Austria, for instance, the son of every archduke, no matter how remote his descent from the throne, is entitled to consider himself a member of the imperial family, to adopt the prefix of "imperial highness" and to style himself "archduke," the result being that there are at the present time over a hundred archdukes, several of whom are forced to vegetate upon an income not exceeding \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year. There is no danger of this kind either in Russia or England, where the male descendants of the sovereign lose their royal attributes in the fourth generation, becoming in Russia ordinary everyday princes, and in Great Britain nobles or mere commoners. The Duke of Cumberland, for instance, is, strictly speaking, not a member of the British royal family, but simply a British Peer, being the great-grandson of King George III, and his children, in the eyes of the English law, are commoners.